

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANKARA 01808 051338Z

43

ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8233

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TAGS: SNAR, TU

SUBJECT: TURKISH MEDIA COVERAGE OF NARCOTICS TOPICS

TURKISH PRESS AND RADIO MARCH 4-5 HAVE GIVEN FAIRLY
PROMINENT COVERAGE TO SEVERAL NARCOTICS-RELATED STORIES.
MAJOR POINTS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

A. TURKISH RADIO NEWS MARCH 5 CARRIED A REPORT ON
CONGRESSIONAL TESTIMONY BY FORMER U.S. DRUG ENFORCEMENT
OFFICIAL WALTER MINNICK, WHO REPORTEDLY SAID THE CONGRESS
AND AMERICAN PUBLIC OPINION WERE "SHAMEFULLY DECEIVED"
IN ORDER TO EXERT PRESSURE ON TURKEY TO IMPOSE A BAN ON
OPIUM POPPYCULTIVATION BEGINNING IN 1972. ACCORDING TO
NEWS ACCOUNT, MINNICK CONTINUED THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT,
WHICH HAD FAILED IN ITS EFFORTS TO FIND A SOLUTION TO THE HEROIN
PROBLEM IN THE U.S., HAD FOUND IT EASIER TO BLAME TURKEY.

B. MASS-CIRCULATION DAILY HURRIYET MARCH 5, UNDER HEADLINE
"THE WORLD IS IN NEED OF TURKISH OPIUM", REPORTED THAT AS A
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PAGE 02 ANKARA 01808 051338Z

RESULT OF THE BAN ON TURKISH POPPY CULTIVATION TWO YEARS AGO, THE

WORLD NOW FACES A SHORTAGE OF OPIUM FOR MEDICINAL PURPOSES, THE STORY QUOTED DR. WILLIAM BARCLAY (VICE PRESIDENT OF THE CHICAGO MEDICAL ASSOCIATION) AS SAYING: "THE WORLD NEEDS TURKISH OPIUM FOR HUMAN HEALTH. WE ARE WAITING FOR TURKEY TO PRODUCE OPIUM."

C. IN A SEPARATE ARTICLE, SAME PAPER REPORTS THAT THE GOT HAS ADOPTED "STRICT MEASURES" TO CONTROL POPPY CULTIVATION, UNDER SUPERVISION OF THE SOILS PRODUCT OFFICE (TMO) WITH PARTICIPATION BY THE STATE SECURITY FORCES. POPPY CULTIVATION AREAS WILL BE TAKEN UNDER SUPERVISION BEGINNING IN MARCH THROUGH THE END OF THE COLLECTION PERIOD.

D. ACCORDING TO MARCH 4 YENI ULUS, PROFESSOR FETHI INCEKARA OF THE AEGEAN UNIVERSITY FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE ANNOUNCED THAT STUDIES WERE UNDERWAY TO DEVELOP A NEW KIND OF POPPY FOR ITS SEEDS AND OIL ONLY, WITH MINIMUM OPIUM AND MORPHINE CONTENT.
BERGUS

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